

W. G. Eliot

Washington Univ -  
St Louis

Prof. Gray:

My dear Sir - After twice reading  
very carefully your "Two Lectures", I do not feel  
at peace with myself until I have thanked you  
for the pleasure & profit enjoyed. It has  
helped me to clear up & assort a good many  
rather vague ideas on the great subject discussed,  
& shows how grandly a materialistic "Evolution"  
may be glorified into the Divine & Providential  
ordering of all things, both material & spiritual.

Surely it would be strange & sad if, in  
proportion as we know more of the wonders  
of God's creation, we were necessarily es-  
tranged from <sup>Him,</sup> like "darkness from exces-  
sive bright". Rather should the most per-  
fect Knowledge lead us to the most profound  
veneration & therefore to the most confi-  
dent Hope & Faith.

I have sent the book, - having no near  
access to another copy, - to a friend in St. Louis

whose extensive reading has weaned  
him from all Faith & who, at three  
score & ten, is visited by severe bereavement  
which finds him without God or Hope  
to sustain his life. It may show him  
that Science contains the alphabet of  
religion by which we read God & Im-  
mortality. Without that faith & hope  
how can a rational ~~man~~ being live?  
With these life is so grand, without them  
so mean & narrow.

This is a lovely place, with the  
Mountains all around us; the air so  
sweet & refreshing; with perfect quiet  
even on this the glorious & noisy 4.<sup>th</sup>

I hope you may have good  
words from Mr. Shaw. More than ever,  
after reading the Lectures, do I see what  
a glorious work can be there done,  
if wise heads & hands have charge of  
it.

Very truly Yrs.

Plazited House

Jefferson. N. H. 7/4/84

W. G. Eliot